

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

I. Status of the Claims

Claim 12 is currently being amended. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification as-filed, including the original claims.

Claims 21 and 22 are being added. Support for these new claims can be found throughout the specification as-filed. Exemplary support is indicated in the table below.

Claim	Exemplary Support
21	¶ [0006]
22	¶¶ [0068], [0084], [0098], [0101], [0108], [0112]

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-22 are now pending.

II. Objections to Abstract

The Office Action objects to the abstract, because “it does not provide any specific examples of the compositions or their applications in technology.”

Applicant has amended the abstract to include a specific example of the claimed compositions and examples of their applications. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1-11 and 13-20 are allowable, because "none of the references of record teach or suggest the claimed reaction."

IV. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Claim 12 stands rejected under "35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over page 167 in the reference titled Introduction to Modern Inorganic Chemistry" 4th Ed, by Mackay et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection.

While not acquiescing in the propriety of the rejection, Applicant has amended claim 12 to depend from new claim 21 rather than claim 1. Claim 21 depends from claim 1 and recites that the reaction product comprises nanoparticles. Because the products disclosed by Mackay do not comprise nanoparticles comprising rare earth elements, Mackay cannot anticipate claim 12.

In addition, Mackay cannot render claim 12 obvious, because Mackay does not teach or suggest the use of nanoparticles. Nanoparticles are a relatively new class of materials with properties that differ from traditional materials. These differences in properties can result in products with new and/or improved properties compared to products made with traditional materials. The specification describes a number of advantages achieved by using nanoparticles comprising a rare earth element. *See e.g.*, spec. at ¶¶ 68, 73, 84, 94, 98, 101, 108, 112, 118, 119. Mackay does not teach or suggest the manufacture of nanoparticles or the unique properties that result. Accordingly, Mackay does not render claim 12 obvious.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

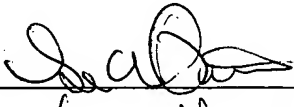
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a
telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be
required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to
Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or
credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper
or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid
amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely
acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37
C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-
0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 07-24-2006

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